

## EdNC's policy on safeguarding children

EducationNC (EdNC) works to expand educational opportunities for all students in North Carolina, increase their academic attainment, and improve the performance of the state's public schools. We provide residents and policymakers with nonpartisan data, research, news, information, and analysis about the major trends, issues, and challenges bearing on education, including learning differences.

We believe everyone has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe, and to practise in a way that protects them.

We give equal priority to keeping all children and young people safe regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

We recognize that some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of discrimination, previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs, or other issues.

EdNC meets our commitment to keeping children safe by:

- listening to children and respecting them;
- adopting and implementing a safeguarding policy;
- making sure our team understands and follows the safeguarding policy;
- posting our safeguarding policy on our about us page on the website EdNC.org so it is easily accessible to our stakeholders; and
- building a safeguarding culture where our team knows how they are expected to behave and feels comfortable sharing concerns.

Our team conducts our work in schools and in other educational settings. We are never alone with students and do not provide direct services.

Our onboarding of EdNC employees and ongoing training includes education about our use of images of children.

Our approach to the use of student images relies on school districts' policies and procedures. Our first question is whether a district is opt-in (parents must opt in to the use of images by the district and others approved by the district) or opt-out (parents opt out of the use of images by the district and others approved by the district). Most of our districts have opt-out policies. In those districts, teachers and principals let us know which students have opted out and may not be photographed. Very few districts have opt-in policies, but where they exist, we work closely with the principal to make sure student photos can be published.

If we are working outside a school district, we have a photo release prepared by our attorney that we use to ensure consent by students and families.

We wear t-shirts and other apparel to make sure we are identified.

We have particular strategies we use as needed to make sure we honor the preferences of caregivers: for example, school principals may be given the opportunity to review images prior to publication and when we are shooting short documentaries we give students who can't be photographed necklaces to wear so our team will know which faces to blur.

If after publication we are notified that a photo may not be used, our policy is to take down immediately any images of children under 18 for any reason no questions asked.



Mebane Rash, CEO and Editor-in-Chief

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